



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

MEMO

Results of the 2019 Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) calls for proposals

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Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

What is it?

The Connecting Europe Facility ([CEF](#)) is a key EU funding instrument for investing in infrastructure projects that promote growth, jobs and competitiveness. It supports the development of high-performing, sustainable, intelligent and efficiently interconnected trans-European networks in the fields of transport, energy and digital services. CEF investments fill the missing links in Europe's energy, transport and digital backbone.

The [CEF Transport programme](#) implements the European Union's transport infrastructure policy by supporting investment in the building or upgrading of transport infrastructure across Europe.

The programme focuses on cross-border projects and projects that remove bottlenecks or bridge missing links. This includes various sections of the [Core Network](#) (nine pan-European Corridors), which is to be completed by 2030 and includes the most important connections and nodes. The programme also supports the [Comprehensive Network](#) (covering all European regions and to be completed by 2050) as well as horizontal priorities such as traffic management systems.

CEF Transport also supports innovation that improves the use of infrastructure within the transport system, reduces the environmental impact of transport, enhances energy efficiency and increases safety.

Why do we need investment in transport infrastructure?

Transport faces a wide range of challenges across the EU. Significant investment is still needed to complete the TEN-T Core Network, and financing gaps remain in several areas. Many bottlenecks must still be removed, and parts of the infrastructure need upgrading and modernisation. A range of Member States require assistance with project preparation and development of a project pipeline. Urban mobility remains a challenge, and further efforts are necessary to remove regulatory and administrative barriers. The European Commission's [Investment Plan for Europe](#), alongside the Connecting Europe Facility and the European Structural and Investment Funds (Cohesion Fund and ERDF), are EU funding instruments to help address these issues, paving the way for the competitive and sustainable EU transport system of tomorrow.

The 2019 CEF Transport Multiannual (MAP) call

What is it?

The Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA) publishes regular Annual and Multiannual calls for proposals for the financing of transport infrastructure projects in Europe. Multiannual calls normally support longer-term projects located in the TEN-T core network corridors, and horizontal priorities such as traffic management systems. This is one such call.

What are the objectives of the 2019 CEF Transport MAP call?

The call for proposals focused on building missing links, encouraging the deployment of the European Rail Transport Management System (ERTMS), developing safe and secure infrastructure, fostering Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) for road, boosting the Motorways of the Sea (MoS) concept of collaboration between ports, and speeding up the creation of a Single European Sky.

What types of projects can receive funding?

The 2019 CEF Transport MAP call was open for project proposals addressing either works or studies.

Who applied?

INEA received 262 proposals, requesting a total of more than €4.5 billion in co-funding by the call deadline of 26 February 2020. The applicants were mostly Member States and public or private undertakings.

What projects will receive CEF funding under the 2019 MAP call for proposals?

130 project proposals were selected, and will receive €2.1 billion between them.

Examples of projects that will be financed:

- Improving the railway connection to the airports of Bucharest (€48.4 million CEF funding), Turin (€14.6 million CEF funding), Milan Malpensa (€63.4 million CEF funding) and Paris Orly (€63.9 million CEF funding)
- Building infrastructure to provide electrical power to moored ships in Malta (€22 million CEF funding)
- Building and revamping safe and secure parking areas for lorries throughout the EU (combined €56.3 million CEF funding for 11 projects)

The European Commission's Innovation and Networks Executive Agency ([INEA](#)) will prepare and sign individual grant agreements with project beneficiaries by January 2021 at the latest.

The 2019 CEF Transport Blending Facility Rolling call

What is it?

The CEF Transport Blending Facility is an innovative approach to encouraging substantial participation by private sector investors and financial institutions in projects intended to step up the environmental sustainability and efficiency of Europe's transport sector.

It is implemented via a cooperation framework between the European Commission, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and promotional banks from EU-Member States. Together, they support Blending Operations, i.e. investments combining grants and/or financial instruments from the EU budget and financing from the abovementioned banks (via a loan, debt, equity or any other repayable form of support).

With a budget of €198 million, the grant component of the Blending Operations under the CEF Transport Blending Facility is managed by the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA).

The call was launched on 15 November 2019 and is open on a continuous basis until March 2021 (subject to budget availability), with intermediate cut-off dates in view of carrying out periodic evaluations of the proposals received.

Timeline	Date
Call opening	15 November 2019
1st cut-off date (submission closed)	14 February 2020
2nd cut-off date (submission closed)	15 May 2020
3rd cut-off date (submission closed)	28 August 2020
Successive cut-off dates (subject to budget availability)	every quarter until March 2021

What are the objectives of the 2019 CEF Transport Blending Facility Rolling call?

The CEF Transport Blending Facility supports two areas that will deliver on the Commission's agenda for a clean and digital transport system:

- Deployment of the European Railway Traffic Management System (ERTMS)
- Deployment of Alternative Fuels

What types of projects can receive funding?

The 2019 CEF Transport Blending Facility call is open for project proposals addressing works only.

Who applied?

INEA received 11 proposals, requesting a total of €86 million in co-funding by the first cut-off deadline of 14 February 2020.

What projects will receive CEF funding under the 2019 CEF Transport Blending Facility Rolling call – first cut-off?

10 project proposals were selected, and will receive €70.4 million between them.

Examples of projects that will be financed:

- Installing 592 electric charging stations with 2 339 charging points in Spain and Portugal (€13.4 million CEF funding)
- Improving the safety of rail transport in Italy by installing ERTMS equipment on 143 locomotives (€7.1 million CEF funding)
- The creation of an electric bus fleet (and associated charging infrastructure) in Amsterdam (the Netherlands) (€13.8 million CEF funding)

The European Commission's Innovation and Networks Executive Agency ([INEA](#)) will prepare and sign individual grant agreements with project beneficiaries by January 2021 at the latest.

How will the projects be managed?

The CEF Programme is managed centrally by the European Commission, which sets political priorities and is responsible for the selection of projects through competitive calls for proposals.

The Commission is assisted by INEA for the evaluation and selection of projects, and for the overall technical and financial monitoring of project implementation.

Beneficiaries in the Member States manage the projects, and the Member States remain responsible for monitoring the implementation of the projects.

All projects co-funded by the CEF programme are available on [INEA website](#).